



St. John the Baptist Church

St. Mary Church - Clearmont
St. Hubert Church - Kaycee

Office and Rectory

532 North Lobban Avenue
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834
307-684-7268
Website: www.sjbc-buffalo.com
Sermon link – <https://soundcloud.com/st-johns-1>

Email:

St. John's: sjbc532@gmail.com
Fr. Pete: frpete@bresnan.net
Mary Ann: macummins@bresnan.net
Carol Gagliano: gagliano.carol@gmail.com

St. John the Baptist Church

Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 8:00 & 10:00 AM
Daily Mass T - F 8:00 AM
Holy Days
Anticipatory 6:00 PM
Day of... 7:00 AM

St. Mary Church, Clearmont

2nd & 4th Sunday 12:30pm

St. Hubert Church, Kaycee

1st & 3rd Sunday 2:00pm

Confessions Saturday 11:00am
Saturday after 5pm Mass
By Appointment

Parish Staff

Pastor	<i>Fr. Pete Johnson</i>	684-7268
Parish Administrator	<i>Mary Ann Cummins</i>	684-7268
CCW Leaders	<i>Vickie Abbott</i>	307-737-2281
Finance Council Chair	<i>Steve Reimann</i>	684-7439
Janitor	<i>Mick Camino</i>	217-1575
K of C Grand Knight	<i>Jason Sutton</i>	217-0468
Choir Director	<i>Mary Finney</i>	278-0137
Organist	<i>Judi Semroska</i>	684-2171
Parish Council Chair	<i>Mike Ihnat</i>	684-7698
Religious Education	<i>Carol Gagliano</i>	684-7217
Trustees	<i>Jean Urruty</i>	684-7093
	<i>Phil Gonzales</i>	684-5920

Religious Education / Meeting

Sunday, March 19 – 5pm St. Patrick's dinner (hall)
Wednesday, March 22 – 6 & 10am Classes
3:45pm & 7pm CCD
Thursday, March 23 – 6:30am Men of St. Joseph
Friday, March 24 – BHS student lunch at hall
7pm Stations
Saturday, March 25 – 6pm Young Adults meet (hall)
Monday, March 27 – 6:30pm Ladies' Night Out
(hall)

Baptisms – Please call Fr. Pete

Marriage – Planning and preparation 6 months in advance

Prayer line Requests – Patty Myers, 684-9381 or Jan Edgcomb – jmpe@wyoming.com

Rosary Guild – Thursdays at 8:30am to 10am; call 307-660-4936 for meeting place

Sacrament of the Sick – After first Sunday Masses or call the Parish Office

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 19, 2017

Altar Assisters:

SATURDAY, March 25, 5pm

Lector: Mary Smith

EM: Kathy Urruty, Dennis Lawrence, Phil Gonzales

Altar Servers: Volunteers

SUNDAY, March 26, 8am

Lector: Volunteer

EM: Volunteers

Altar Servers: Aaron Seeman, Aaron Thiele

SUNDAY, March 26, 10am

Lector: Volunteer

EM: Volunteers

Altar Servers: Carter Zink, Adam Belus, Michael

Ihnat

Homebound Ministry, Friday, March 24

Kathy Smith

COLLECTIONS FOR WEEK OF MARCH 12, 2017

St. John's	\$ 2,972.00	YTD \$ 146,355.45
St. Mary's	\$ 286.00	YTD \$ 4,439.00
St. Hubert's	\$ 25.00	YTD \$ 3,200.25
Poor Donations	\$ 173.00	
Online Donations	\$ 175.60	

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Mon.	03.20	8:00 a.m.	No Mass
Tue.	03.21	8:00 a.m.	+Valorie Coda
Wed.	03.22	8:00 a.m.	+Valorie Coda
Thu.	03.23	8:00 a.m.	Sr. Edna Stephenson
Fri.	03.24	8:00 a.m.	+Jim Tanner
Sat.	03.25	5:00 p.m.	+Jim Tanner
Sun.	03.26	8:00 a.m.	+Anthony Swain
		10:00 a.m.	for the parishes
		12:30 p.m.	Clearmont: Fr. Pete's intention

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Mon-2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Gospel: Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tue-Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35
Wed-Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Gospel: Matthew 5:17-19
Thu-Jeremiah 7:23-28; Gospel: Luke 11:14-23
Fri-Hosea 14:2-10; Gospel: Mark 12:28-34
Sat-Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

FROM FR. PETE:

St. Patrick's Dinner is this Sunday at 5:00 p.m. All are invited to a great, traditional meal of corn beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots and fellowship.

Vacation Bible School will have "SonQuest Rainforest" this June 12 to 16 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We are in need of volunteers to serve as:

+++*Activity Leaders.* These helpers will co-teach in one of the activity centers, for example, games and snacks (help in preparing). We can use 2 - 3 helpers.

+++*Crew Leaders.* These helpers will be kind of "home base" for 8 - 10 children and will lead them to the various activities. Young adults, college age, responsible high school people wanted. We need 4 crew leaders. People must have had a background check done. If you haven't, please consider doing it now. Call the parish office (684-7268) for information. The parish covers all costs.

+++*Assistant crew leaders.* They will help the crew leaders and participate with the children. Middle school, high school people needed. We need 8 or more.

+++*Decorating.* This will happen during the week of June 5 - 9. We will be creating a rainforest setting, and will involve hanging decorations, possibly painting props. Times to be arranged.

If able to help with any of these, please call Carol Gagliano at 684-5751.

Parents of children making their First Confession, First Holy Communion: please get a copy of your child's baptismal certificate to Carol Gagliano as soon as possible. For children receiving Confirmation, please get your child's baptismal certificate to either Mike Scarlett or Fr. Pete as soon as possible. **Please understand that under no conditions will your child be admitted to the Sacraments without proof of baptism.**

Confirmation: Sunday, April 30, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Reception follows.

First Confession: Saturday, May 6, 9:00 a.m.

First Holy Communion: Sunday, May 7, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Breakfast follows.

A Lenten Reflection from Flight from the World by Saint Ambrose.

Where a man's heart is, there is his treasure also. God is not accustomed to refusing a good gift to those who ask for one. Since He is good, and especially to those who are faithful to Him, let us hold fast to Him with all our soul, our heart, our strength, and so enjoy His light and see His glory and possess the grace of supernatural joy. Let us reach out with our hearts to possess that good, let us exist in it and live in it, let us hold fast to it, that good which is beyond all we can know or see and is marked by perpetual peace and tranquility, a peace which is beyond all we can know or understand.

This is the good that permeates creation. In it we all live, on it we all depend. It has nothing above it; it is

Divine. No one is good but God alone. What is good is therefore Divine, what is Divine is therefore good. Scripture says: "When you open your hand all things will be filled with goodness." It is through God's goodness that all that is truly good is given us, and in it there is no admixture of evil.

These good things are promised by Scripture to those who are faithful: "The good things of the land will be your food."

We have died with Christ. We carry about in our bodies the sign of His death, so that the living Christ may also be revealed in us. The life we live is not now our ordinary life but the life of Christ: a life of sinlessness, of chastity, of simplicity and every other virtue. We have risen with Christ. Let us live in Christ, let us ascend in Christ, so that the serpent may not have the power here below to wound us in the heel.

Let us take refuge from this world. You can do this in spirit, even if you are kept here in the body. You can at the same time be here and present to the Lord. Your soul must hold fast to Him, you must follow Him in your thoughts, you must tread His ways by faith, not in outward show. You must take refuge in Him. He is your refuge and your strength. David addresses Him in these words: "I fled to You for refuge, and I was not disappointed."

Since God is our refuge, God Who is in heaven and above the heavens, we must take refuge from this world in that place where there is peace, where there is rest from toil, where we can celebrate the great Sabbath, as Moses said: "The Sabbaths of the land will

provide you with food.” To rest in the Lord and to see His joy is like a banquet, and full of gladness and tranquility.

Let us take refuge like deer beside the fountain of waters. Let our soul thirst, as David thirsted, for the fountain. What is that fountain? Listen to David: “With you is the fountain of life.” Let my soul say to this fountain: “When shall I come and see you face to face?” For the fountain is God Himself.

“Fr. Pete.... If I go to a funeral on Saturday, am I exempt from coming to Mass on Sunday?” No.

A Saturday morning funeral Mass is not a substitute for the regular Sunday worship.

“Fr. Pete.... There have been some comments in the news that the Pope is considering allowing married men to become priests. Anything to this?”

Yes, but I prefer to leave it to the Holy Father to explain himself.

What I can say is that the context of the papal statement is the severe shortage of priests in some parts of the world that denies people access to preaching and the Sacraments. The Holy Father appears to think that ordaining mature married men of proven faith (*virī probati*) could help alleviate this problem. I am working with the assumption that the children of these men would be grown and independent. The Pope insists that he does not wish to change the discipline of mandatory celibacy, but is willing to consider ordaining married men where there is a genuine pastoral need. It is not clear at this time, however, what the process will be for determining which bishops would be granted the right to ordain married men. Over time, however, I can see this exception to the norm evolving into the norm as so often happens. Remember the issue of altar girls? It was (and still is) a concession for places where there was genuine need and in no time at all it became the norm.

Since becoming a Catholic I have argued that there is no theological justification for mandatory celibacy. Jesus did indeed invite men to celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom of God. He never, however, demanded it as evidenced by His calling married men to be His Apostles, the first bishops and the first Pope! Celibacy is a discipline of the Church, not a dogma. The Church had married priests from the beginning and has married priests now in the 24 Eastern Churches in communion with Rome and some 200 Protestant clergy in this country who converted to the Faith and were ordained priests. The Church is perfectly free to change the discipline of celibacy when she thinks it is time to do so.

Many argue the Church does herself a great disservice by not taking full advantage of the talents, insights and gifts of married men as priests. And just as many argue celibacy should be maintained especially at this critical time in Western culture when there is so much confusion about sexuality. Both sides make valid points.

It is important to keep in mind that should married men be ordained priests, those already priests will never be allowed to marry. The God Who gave the man the grace to say “yes” to the gift of celibacy does not wish to hear “no.”

If the Pope’s suggestion becomes reality, there will be three interesting dynamics to observe. First, how a congregation will receive a married priest and his wife. Congregations tend to be pretty possessive of their priest and may not like the idea of playing second fiddle to the needs of a priest’s wife. Second, how the bishop will financially recompense a married priest so he can provide for his wife (and possibly children still living at home). Third, how other priests will receive a brother priest who is married.

Perhaps the Holy Father deliberately threw the idea out there just to see what the reaction would be, a kind of sticking the papal toe in the water. In any case, the cat is out of the bag now and the Pope must explain his proposal in greater detail to the Church. Things should start to get very interesting!